

can be traded as a security, the price of which can be determined on the basis of information about one or more securities, comprising the steps of:

a) directing a computer processor to select from said one or more securities a selected portfolio of securities, the risk/return performance of which over a predetermined period of time meets a predefined benchmark performance, including:

i) providing a database of information on securities available for trading;

ii) electronically processing information in said provided database to identify securities, the asset size of which is above a predetermined threshold; and

iii) electronically searching the identified securities to select a subset of N securities, the risk/return performance of which is superior to the risk/return performance of all identified securities;

b) receiving information on each of said one or more securities in an electronic data format;

c) storing at least the received information on each security in the selected portfolio in a computer memory;

d) electronically processing said stored information to determine [the electronic data processing method of Claim 12 wherein] the price of the financial product [is determined] on the basis of a user-defined method of weighing the select subset of N securities [.] ; and

B<sup>1</sup>

e) outputting an indication of the determined price of the financial product in humanly readable format.

Please add the following new Claims 21-28:

pub CO 21. An electronic data processing method for administering a financial product having a fixed number of shares over a predetermined period of time, so that the financial product can be traded as a security the price of which can be determined on the basis of information about one or more securities, comprising the steps of:

B<sup>2</sup>

a) directing a computer processor to select from said one or more securities a selected portfolio of securities based upon a particular performance criteria for the securities so selected which meets a predefined benchmark performance, including:

i) providing a database of information on securities available for trading;

ii) electronically processing information in said provided database to identify securities, the asset size of which is above a predetermined threshold; and

iii) electronically searching the identified securities to select a subset of N securities, the performance criteria of which is superior to the performance criteria of all identified securities;

b) receiving information on each of said one or more securities in an electronic data format;

c) storing at least the received information on each security in the selected portfolio in a computer memory;

d) electronically processing said stored information to determine the price of the financial product on the basis of a user-defined method of weighing the select subset of N securities; and

e) outputting an indication of the determined price of the financial product in humanly readable format.

22. (new) The electronic data processing method of Claim 21 wherein the particular performance criteria for selecting from said one or more securities said selected portfolio is a selected one or more of the risk/return performance; the total net assets as of a set time; the price at which said one or more securities is trading relative to net asset value; and a preferred statistical relationship over time.

23. (new) The electronic data processing method of Claim 22 wherein at least one of said one or more securities is a mutual fund.

24. (new) The electronic data processing method of Claim 21 further comprising the step of evaluating the performance of the financial instrument on the basis of comparing the risk/return

performance of the financial instrument over a predetermined period of time to a predefined benchmark performance.

25. (new) The electronic data processing method of Claim 24 further comprising the step of repeating steps a) to d) and using the results in said step of evaluating.

26. (new) The electronic data processing method of Claim 22 further comprising the step of separating securities in the database provided in step a) into predefined investment style categories.

27. (new) The electronic data processing method of Claim 21 wherein the price of the financial instrument is determined on the basis of capitalization weighing of the select subset of N securities.

28. The electronic data processing method of Claim 22 further comprising the step of computing derivative values on the basis of the determined price of the financial product, said derivative values defining a derivative financial product.

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REMARKS

We are in receipt of the Office Action dated October 2, 1997, and the above amendments and following remarks are made in light thereof.